

15 July 2010

nl#394552

Note from the National Library of New Zealand

To: members of the Advisory Board of ICADS

'National Libraries Global'

Background

In August 2009 in Milan, a report on the status of the 'National Libraries Global' (NLG) prototype was discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Board of ICADS and at the Annual Meeting of CDNL.

(NLG, developed by the National Library of New Zealand with assistance from the National Library of Singapore and others, is a lightweight, low-barrier-to-entry, highly customisable solution to getting national libraries' and any other organisations' digital content online.)

The outcome of the discussion in Milan was a recommendation by ICADS that an evaluation of NLG be carried out on behalf of ICADS. The recommendation was accepted by CDNL. Subsequently, the Director of The European Library (TEL) was approached and agreed to arrange for a consultant to carry out this evaluation.

Terms of reference for the evaluation were agreed, and supporting documentation on the development and objectives of NLG were provided by the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) to the evaluation team in November 2009, together with certain NLG artefacts for review.

At about the same time, the Biblioteca Nacional de España (BNE) expressed interest in the feasibility of using NLG as an interface for access to Spanish-language and Portuguese-language materials. The intention is to produce a portal for use by members of ABINIA (Ibero-American national libraries). Work was undertaken to produce an updated, multilingual interface prototype, which was approved by ABINIA in October 2009. BNE staff visited the National Library of New Zealand (NLNZ) to assess and review the prototype. The NLNZ completed documentation of the prototype and transferred it to the BNE for ongoing management, development and support.

The NLNZ received other expressions of interest in 2009, including some from members of CDNL-AO (Asia-Oceania) but these were not followed up pending receipt of the TEL Review.

Current situation

The Review was received by the NLNZ on 28 May 2010, and has been studied with interest. The team who developed 'National Libraries Global' have commented on specific issues in a document entitled 'National Library of New Zealand Response to the Review (...)' which is annexed to this Note.

The NLNZ's 'Response' provides an analysis of the points made in the Review, indicates how identified gaps in NLG can be remedied and how its strengths are being built on to achieve its particular strategic objectives. The Response underlines that the intended target market for NLG may not necessarily be the same as that of other digital library implementations.

The NLNZ notes that the NLG prototype, as developed by ABINIA, now underlies the 'Iberoamérica Digital' portal, which will be demonstrated at the Annual Meeting of CDNL in Gothenburg, and at the 1st conference of National Digital Libraries of Latin America (in Santiago de Chile, September 2010).

Request to ICADS

The NLNZ formally requests that the Advisory Board of ICADS consider the NLNZ's 'Response' to the TEL Review, at its meeting on 10 August in Gothenburg and state whether it feels that the Response satisfactorily answers issues raised in that Review, and whether it is willing to endorse and support NLG as a project capable of further extension in the context of CDNL's statement of its 'Vision for the Global Digital Library' (2008).

The NLNZ further requests that the Advisory Board of ICADS communicate its statement immediately to the Secretary of CDNL in Gothenburg, and to members via the CDNL-L list, so that it can be taken into consideration at the Annual Meeting of CDNL on 12 August 2010 where this item is on the agenda.
